

REMARKS

Reconsideration and allowance of the above-referenced application are respectfully requested. Claims 1-17 are pending in the application.

Allowable Claims 12-17

The Applicants again thank the Examiner for the indication that claims 12-17 are allowed and claims 2-11 recited allowable subject matter.

Claims 1 over Aimoto in view of Kornaros

Claims 1 stands rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) over U.S. Patent No. 6,570,876 to Aimoto in view of ATLAS I: Implementing a Single-Chip ATM Switch with Backpressure, IEEE 1999 to Kornaros. The Applicants respectfully traverse the rejection.

Independent claim 1 specifies prioritizing switching of a data frame by an integrated network switch to an output port based on a user-selected attribute of the data frame.

Hence, a user is able to select prioritization of data frames based on, e.g., identification of any one of a prescribed network switch port receiving a data packet, a prescribed source address within the data packet, and/or identification of the data packet as belonging to a prescribed data flow. Prioritizing switching of a data frame based on a user-selectable attribute of a data frame overcomes reliance on and can override a priority field associated with a data packet, as is disclosed as being relied on by the cited prior art.

The Office Action alleges that Aimoto discloses prioritizing switching of a data frame to an output port based on a user-selected attribute of the data frame at col. 9, lines 1-11 and 33-47; and col. 12, lines 1-25 (see Office Action, page 3). The Applicants respectfully disagree.

Aimoto at col. 9, lines 1-11 and 33-47 discloses mapping tables 40 and 50 respectively show in Fig. 4 and Fig. 5 that provide a mapping relationship between a packet's header and a packet's priority information and a mapping relationship between a source network address and a destination network address. In particular, Fig. 3 shows

that the packet 30 has a priority field 33 (see col. 8, lines 25-28). Aimoto at col. 12, lines 1-25 simply describes how the mapping relationships described in Fig. 4 and Fig. 5 are applied to maintain a bandwidth guarantee and how other contractors are serviced when there are a lack of packets to service for a bandwidth guaranteed contractor.

Thus, Aimoto discloses prioritizing switching of a packet **ONLY** based on **priority information** that is included in a packet header, i.e., a user is **NOT** given an **option** to choose an attribute of a data frame to base switching on. Aimoto fails to disclose or suggest prioritizing switching of a data frame to an output port based on a **user-selected attribute of the data frame**, as recited by claim 1.

The Office Action acknowledged that Aimoto fails to disclose a single chip switch (see Office Action, page 3). However, the Office Action relied on Kornaros to allegedly make up for the deficiencies in Aimoto, i.e., disclosing a single chip switch (See Office Action, page 3).

Kornaros discloses a single chip ATM switch. However, Kornaros is directed to **flow control** within an ATM network. Kornaros fails to disclose or suggest prioritizing switching of a data frame to an output port based on a **user-selected attribute of the data frame**, as recited by claim 1.

Thus, even if it were obvious to modify Aimoto's network with Kornaros' single chip switch, which it is not, the theoretical result would still fail to disclose or suggest prioritizing switching of a data frame to an output port based on a **user-selected attribute of the data frame**, as recited by claim 1.

Accordingly, for at least all the above reasons, claim 1 is patentable over the prior art of record. It is therefore respectfully requested that the rejection be withdrawn.

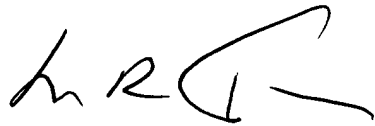
Conclusion

All objections and rejections having been addressed, it is respectfully submitted that the subject application is in condition for allowance and a Notice to that effect is earnestly solicited.

To the extent necessary, Applicant petitions for an extension of time under 37 C.F.R. 1.136. Please charge any shortage in fees due in connection with the filing of this paper, including any missing or insufficient fees under 37 C.F.R. 1.17(a), to Deposit Account No. 50-0687, under Order No. 95-311, and please credit any excess fees to such deposit account.

Respectfully submitted,

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A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'L R Turkevich', written over a horizontal line.

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